

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 WELLIN 01608 220323 Z

64

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 220200 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6786

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 1608

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, NZ, US

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF US AMBASSADOR TO NEW ZEALAND

FOR ASST SEC GODLEY FROM CHARGE

1. ON 22 JUNE PRIME MINISTER RAISED THIS QUESTION WITH ME. HE TICKED OFF ACCURATELY FROM MEMORY NON- CAREER AMBASSADORS WHO HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO NEW ZEALAND FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS AND POINTED OUT THAT IN HIS OPINION THERE HAD BEEN DEFICIENCIES AND LACK OF KNOWLEDGE EXHIBITED BY EVERY ONE OF THEM, INCLUDING AMB HENNING. HE FELT THAT THE SUCCESSFUL WORK OF THE EMBASSY HAD ALWAYS BEEN CARRIED ON BY CAREER OFFICERS ASSIGNED HERE.

2. HE EMPHASIZED THAT ANY DECISION ON SUCH A MATTER WAS COMPLETELY UP TO THE US GOVT BUT EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT A CAREER AMBASSADOR COULD BE APPOINTED WHO HAD SERVED IN A COUNTRY WITH A LABOR GOVT AND WOULD UNDERSTAND THE WORKINGS OF LABOR PARTIES. HE ALSO HOPED THAT THE NEW AMBASSADOR WOULD HAVE HAD PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN ASIA. HE HOPED THAT A MILITARY MAN WOULD NOT BE APPOINTED. HE FELT THIS WOULD NOT BE IN THE INTEREST OF EITHER GOVERNMENT AT A TIME WHEN PUBLIC EMOTIONS ON INDOCHINA WERE STILL
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RATHER HEATED.
WOOD

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** STADIS, EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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